(d) if so, the details of the "Notice-based" flying?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of T-90 tanks from Russia

121. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T-90 tanks imported from Russia; and

(b) whether T-90 is capable of countering T-80 tanks acquired by Pakistan from Ukraine?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A total number of 310 T-90 tanks, *i.e.*, 124 Fully Formed Tanks, 86 Semi-Knocked Down (SKD) Kits and 100 Completely Knocked Down (CKD) Kits, were imported from Russia.

(b) T-90 tank is state-of-the-art tank which can be compared to any modern Main Battle Tank (MBT) in the world and is capable of countering T-80 tanks acquired by Pakistan.

Admiral Gorshkov

122. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has concluded the final deal on the acquisition of Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, during the recent visit of our Prime Minister of Russia;

(b) whether India has the expertise to assess the sea-worthiness of Admiral Gorshkov and whether any international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal; and

(c) to what extent the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will enhance our naval capabilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. No international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal.

(c) Acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will enhance offensive capability of Navy and work as a major deterrent factor.

Import of bullet proof jackets

123. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to import bullet-proof jackets for our Jawans to fight with terrorists and enemies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any field tests have been conducted;

(d) if so, the out come of the field tests; and

(e) the specifications that the Ministry has set in for importing bullet proof jackets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The General Service Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) for the Bullet Proof Jackets have been revised and based on these revised GSQRs a case for procurement of one lakh Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) is under process. A Global Techno-Commercial "Request For Proposal" (RFP) for procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets was issued to 89 foreign and 19 Indian firms on 23-01-2002. Offers received in response thereto were technically evaluated by a Committee headed by Deputy Master General of Ordnance and samples of the firms so selected by the Committee were trial-evaluated at Infantry School, Mhow. Finally, the firms whose samples of Bullet Proof Jackets have passed the trials have been short-listed by the trial team. The final picture will emerge only after the trials are completed fully. The specifications prescribed for Indian as well as foreign vendors are the same.

Recruitment of foreign nationals in defence forces

124. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nationals of PoK and Bangladesh have been recruited in the Defence forces through recruitment centres as reported in the media;